

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 NSCE-00 /063 W

----- 048493

O R 041731Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7960

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0800

PARIS AND OSLO FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN. PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL
AND AVERY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 0735

1. EVENTS HAVE OVERTAKEN SOME ASPECTS OF USDEL SUGGESTIONS
IN PARAS 4-6 OF REFTEL.

2. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUB-GROUP HAS PRESENTED TO FULL
GOVERNMENT GROUP OF WORKING PARTY A PROPOSAL FOR PHASING OUT
THE TEN NON-ELECTIVE GOVERNMENT SEATS OVER THE NEXT THREE
GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS (I.E. CONVERTING THREE TO ELECTIVE
SEATS IN 1978, THREE MORE IN 1981, AND THE REMAINING FOUR IN
1984), AS ANTICIPATED PARA 2 REFTEL. UPON BEING INFORMED BY
THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY SUB-GROUP THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF CONTINUITY FOR THE STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL
IMPORTANCE WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SUB-GROUPS WERE INITIATED
TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY BASIS FOR BRIDGING
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THIS SHARP DIVERGENCE OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO SUB-GROUPS.

3. AT THE SHORT FORMAL SESSION OF THE FULL GOVERNMENT GROUP ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, IT WAS AGREED TO PURSUE THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT EACH SUB-GROUP SHOULD CONVENE ITSELF AS APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY SUGGESTIONS EMANATING FROM THE CONTINUING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SHOW ANY PROSPECT OF BRIDGING THE GAP.

4. IT NOW APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT THE STUMBLING BLOCK IS THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TEN STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE ON A "PRIVILEGED" BASIS (I.E. TO "NON-ELECTIVE" GOVERNMENT SEATS), RATHER THAN ON THE PRESENCE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE STATES ON THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES OF THE GOVERNING BODY. WHILE THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE A SMALL MATTER OF SEMANTICS, THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE THIRD WORLD SERVING ON THE WORKING BODY BELIEVE ANY COMPROMISE THEY AGREE TO WILL BE DISAVOWED BY THE THIRD WORLD AS A WHOLE, AT THE URGINGS OF ITS MORE RADICAL MEMBERS, UNLESS THEY ACHIEVE THE ELIMINATION OF THIS SYMBOL ("NON-ELECTIVE SEATS") OF A PRIVILEGED STATUS.

5. THEREFORE, ATTENTION IS NOW BEING DEVOTED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AN ELECTION SYSTEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT SEATS WHICH WOULD ASSURE A CONTINUITY OF ELECTED MEMBERSHIP, IN A PORTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SEATS, FOR THOSE STATES WHICH HAVE THE LARGEST RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AREA OF ILO CONCERNS (I.E. THE FACTORS SUCH AS GDP AND SIZE OF WORKFORCE, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING THE STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE).

6. THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURES SUGGESTED IN PARAS 4-6 OF REFTTEL THEREFORE ARE NO LONGER PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO THE SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED SINCE YESTERDAY. FURTHER, USDEL IS CONCERNED, FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF ITS IDEAS REFLECTED IN REFTTEL WITH THE ILO LEGAL ADVISER AND OTHERS, THAT WERE A PROCEDURE ALONG THE LINES IT SUGGESTED BE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF CREATING DE FACTO CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDUSTRIALLY IMPORTANT STATES IN AREAS OF THE WORLD NOT NOW AMONG THE TEN STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE, THE PROCEDURE ALSO COULD BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. IT COULD BE USED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO TRY TO

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ESTABLISH FOR EACH REGION A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT SEATS TO BE HELD BY THAT REGION, AND THUS ARRIVE AT THE RESULT OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION WHICH WE SEEK TO AVOID.

7. THEREFORE, USDEL BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO PURSUE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED STATES THROUGH SOME ELECTION PROCESS, APPLICABLE ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT GROUP AND NOT RPT

NOT INVOLVING REGIONAL OR OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS, THAN TO PURSUE ANY PREVIOUS PROPOSALS, INCLUDING USDEL'S SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL.

8. WE ARE STILL CONFRONTED WITH THE PROSPECT THAT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY WILL CONSIDER THE FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOVERNING BODY TO BE A SINE QUA NON TO ANY SOLUTION LEADING TO AN AGREED REVISION OF ARTICLE 7 OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION. USDEL WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST THIS FEATURE UNLESS SUCH ENLARGEMENT INDEED DOES APPEAR TO BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ELECTION SYSTEM WHICH CAN ASSURE THE ELECTION OF AT LEAST THE TEN STATES OF THE CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE.

9. USDEL THEREFORE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN INFORMAL CONSIDERATIONS OF HOW SUCH AN ELECTION SYSTEM MIGHT BE DEvised AND OPERATE, KEEPING WASHINGTON INFORMED OF ANY WORKABLE SCHEMES AS THEY MAY DEVELOP, AND TO DROP THE SUGGESTIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. IT WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF ITS PURSUIT OF THIS COURSE.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760042-0690
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacvul.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 735
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE
TAGS: ELAB, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006